CEDAR POINT : TRUTH (THE SERIES**);**

DWELLE'S PLEASURE GROUNDS

This (future) publication will detail "Dwelle's pleasure grounds"*, the original direct-precursor enterprise to the 21st-Century 'Cedar Point' resort.

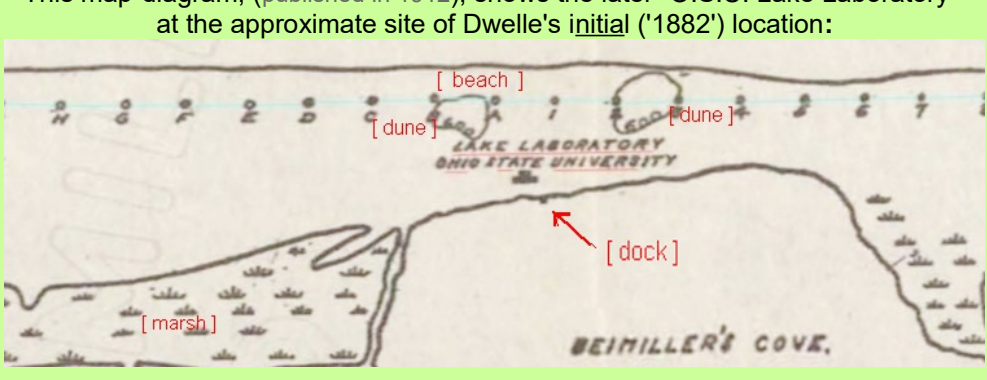
[*unfortunately, Dwelle did not assign any specific name to his "pleasure grounds"; but the typical naming-pattern for many of the local resorts, suggested the title for this publication. Apparently, the only assigned name associated with "Dwelle's pleasure grounds" was *"Dwelle's dock on Cedar Point"*, (meaning, on the peninsula* named Cedar Point).]

[*now, actually an island, after 1969]

In 1882, Benjamin F. Dwelle initially established his "pleasure grounds", at a very narrow portion of this peninsula, in a small area adjacent to Biemiller's Cove. But his enterprise was so quickly successful, that he soon leased a different, and much larger, area (which is in the general location of the 21st-Century resort); and, by the next year, he had relocated his enterprise (including physically relocating his '1882' structures) into that much larger area.

Dwelle had the assistance of a partner, Capt. Slackford, who was responsible for the water-transportation to "Dwelle's pleasure grounds". (Various 19th-Century evidence indicates that Slackford had no monetary investment in the "pleasure grounds", itself.)

This map-diagram, (published in 1912), shows the later “O.S.U. Lake Laboratory” at the approximate site of Dwelle's initial ('1882') location:

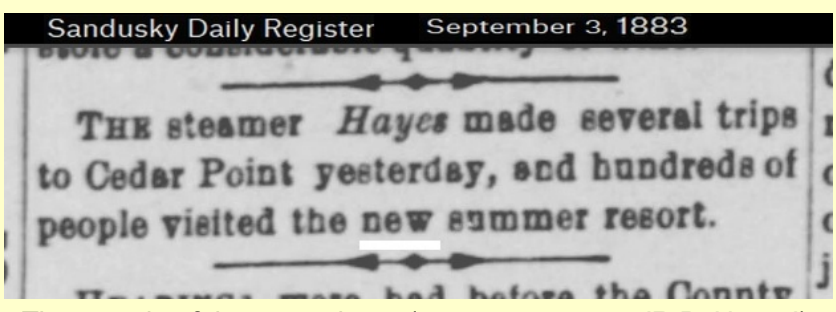


Potentially, that (later) “O.S.U. Lake Laboratory” might have even utilized the same dockage which had been constructed for Dwelle's initial (1882) enterprise.
[Notice that a large portion of Biemiller's Cove, was merely shallow marshland – much too shallow for laden steamboats, (and, in fact, that portion was so very shallow that, in the 20th-Century, it was simply filled-in for 'parking' for the resort).]
Ostensibly, Dwelle had initially chosen that specific narrower area of the peninsula, because it was flatter and less-than-half as far, for patrons to walk from a dock to the beach, there. (The long wide beach was the patrons' primary destination, of course.)
But, apparently, he didn't anticipate that his enterprise would very quickly outgrow that narrow area; and, almost immediately, he began to form a plan to relocate his entire “resort”, into the central portion of the widest part of this peninsula named “Cedar Point”, (and he leased a new area in that wider portion, for the following 5 years).

Prior to Dwelle's enterprise, there had been a few simple “bath house” businesses at other areas of this long (former) “peninsula”, (now, actually an island), beginning as early as '1858'. And, in fact, in '1882', there was at least one other 'resort' enterprise, named the “Eagle Bathhouses”, (established by T.J. Moore), already operating (since '1881'), at a differently-owned area at Biemiller's Cove, (but nearby Dwelle's initial site).
(T.J. Moore seems to have attempted to compete with Dwelle, by adding more amenities to his own enterprise; but apparently by '1885', Dwelle became too much competition.)
Another, (independent), “bath house” enterprise which was operating about that same time, was the Molyneux-Hammond enterprise at “Fisherman's Cove”, a mile eastward. (“Fisherman's Cove” was near the public “Carrying Grounds”, where local-area residents had been freely accessing the beach, there, for decades; and also where fishermen carried their rowboats across it, between the Bay and the Lake.)

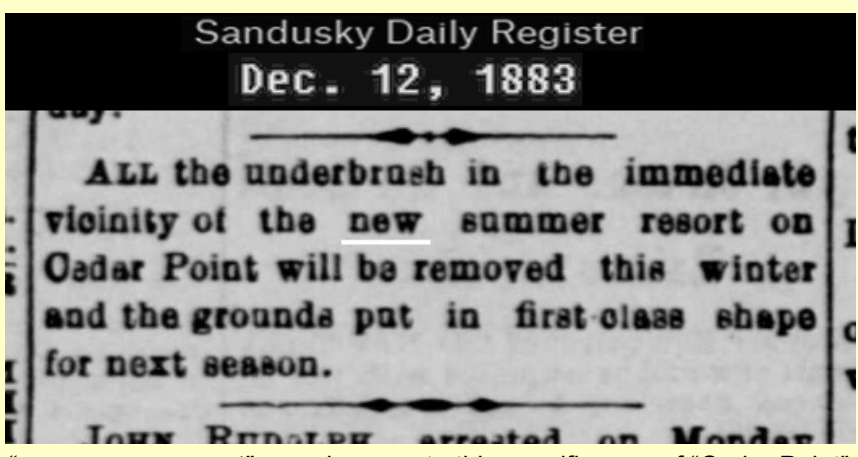
{ TO BE CONTINUED....}

...but here are just a few highlights:


Sandusky Daily Register September 3, 1883

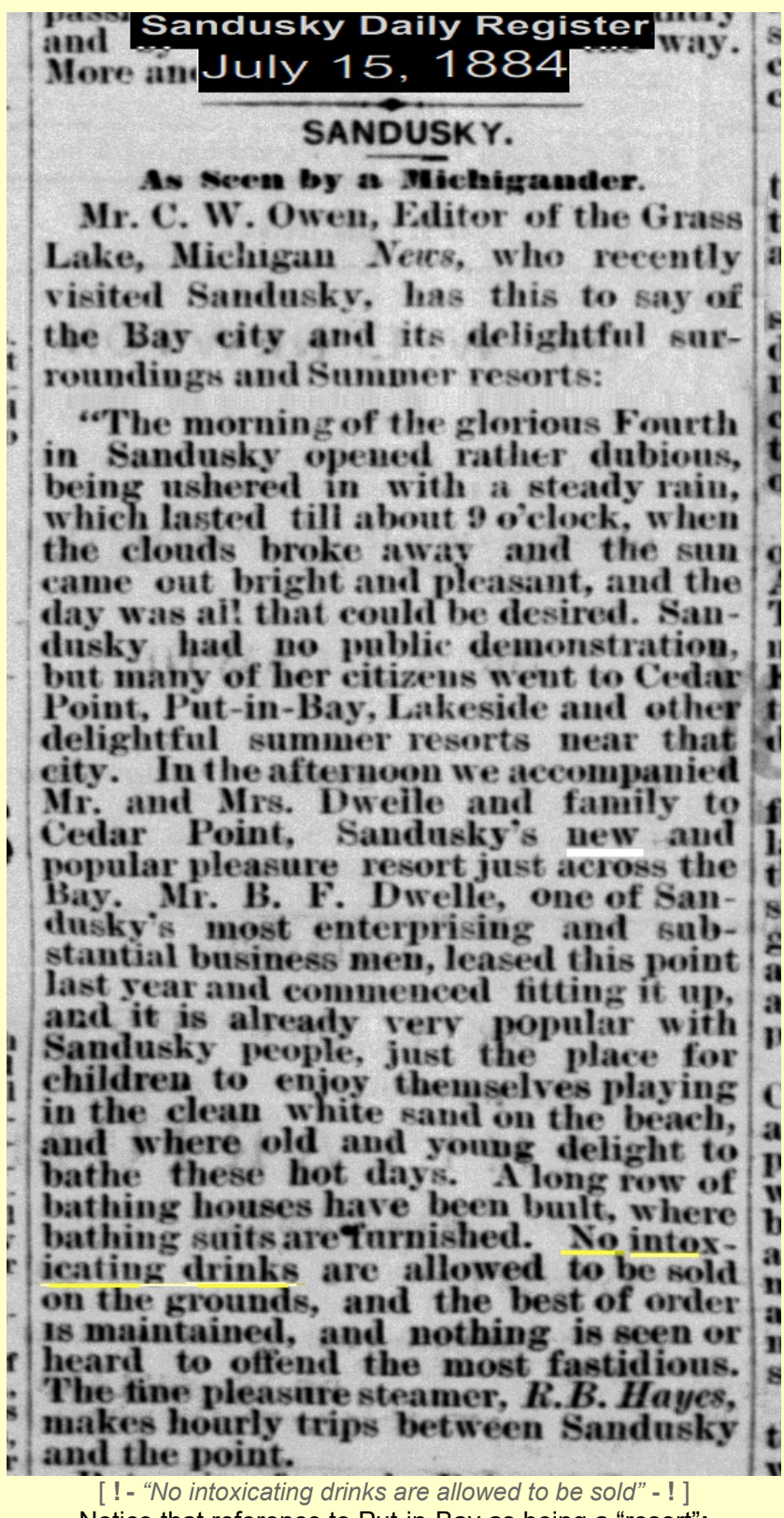
THE steamer *Hayes* made several trips to Cedar Point yesterday, and hundreds of people visited the new summer resort.

The captain of that steamboat, (technically named 'R.B. Hayes'), was Dwelle's “water-transport partner”, Capt. Wm. J. Slackford.
(Slackford's son, Wm.G., was the 'clerk' of the 'R.B.Hayes'.)
[Wm.G. would later become its captain, by 1887.]
W.J. Slackford was also the Manager of Dwelle's pleasure grounds.


Sandusky Daily Register
Dec. 12, 1883

ALL the underbrush in the immediate vicinity of the new summer resort on Cedar Point will be removed this winter and the grounds put in first-class shape for next season.

“new summer resort” meaning new to this specific area of “Cedar Point” (the “peninsula”). (There were other recreational enterprises which were already in operation, independently, on narrow portions of “Cedar Point”; but no enterprise had utilized this specific, and much wider, area.)


Sandusky Daily Register
July 15, 1884

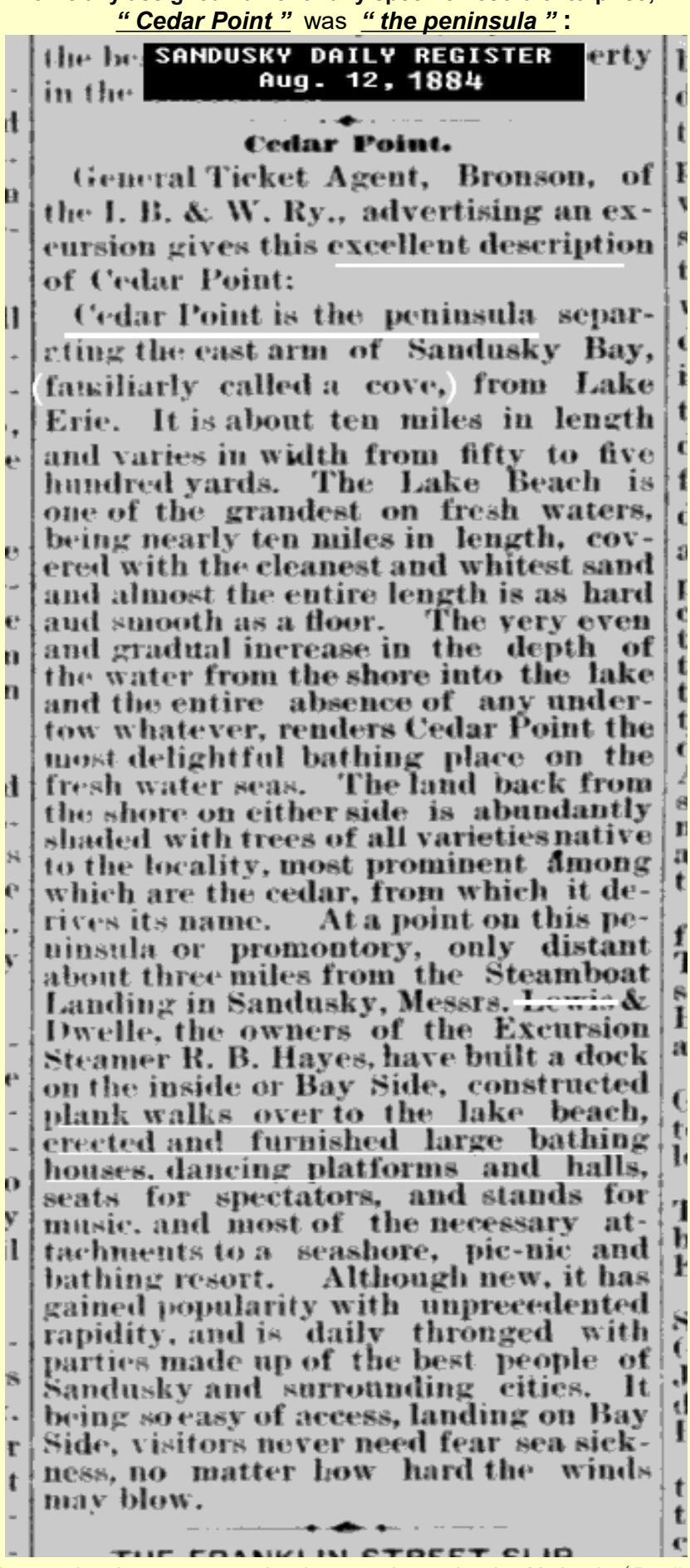
SANDUSKY.

As Seen by a Michigander.

Mr. C. W. Owen, Editor of the Grass Lake, Michigan *News*, who recently visited Sandusky, has this to say of the Bay city and its delightful surroundings and Summer resorts:

“The morning of the glorious Fourth in Sandusky opened rather dubious, being ushered in with a steady rain, which lasted till about 9 o'clock, when the clouds broke away and the sun came out bright and pleasant, and the day was all that could be desired. Sandusky had no public demonstration, but many of her citizens went to Cedar Point, Put-in-Bay, Lakeside and other delightful summer resorts near that city. In the afternoon we accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Dweile and family to Cedar Point, Sandusky's new and popular pleasure resort just across the Bay. Mr. B. F. Dwelle, one of Sandusky's most enterprising and substantial business men, leased this point last year and commenced fitting it up, and it is already very popular with Sandusky people, just the place for children to enjoy themselves playing in the clean white sand on the beach, and where old and young delight to bathe these hot days. A long row of bathing houses have been built, where bathing suits are furnished. No intoxicating drinks are allowed to be sold on the grounds, and the best of order is maintained, and nothing is seen or heard to offend the most fastidious. The fine pleasure steamer, *R.B. Hayes*, makes hourly trips between Sandusky and the point.

[! - *“No intoxicating drinks are allowed to be sold”* - !]
Notice that reference to Put-in-Bay as being a “resort”; obviously meaning “resort” in a general sense, (not as being a single specific 'resort' enterprise). Likewise, any references to “Cedar Point” as being a *“resort”* did not mean a specific enterprise.
During the 19th-Century, “Cedar Point” was never the actual officially assigned name for any specific 'resort' enterprise;
“ Cedar Point ” was ***“ the peninsula ”*** **:**


SANDUSKY DAILY REGISTER
Aug. 12, 1884

Cedar Point.

General Ticket Agent, Bronson, of the L. S. & W. Ry., advertising an excursion gives this excellent description of Cedar Point:

Cedar Point is the peninsula separating the east arm of Sandusky Bay, (familiarly called a cove,) from Lake Erie. It is about ten miles in length and varies in width from fifty to five hundred yards. The Lake Beach is one of the grandest on fresh waters, being nearly ten miles in length, covered with the cleanest and whitest sand and almost the entire length is as hard and smooth as a floor. The very even and gradual increase in the depth of the water from the shore into the lake and the entire absence of any undertow whatever, renders Cedar Point the most delightful bathing place on the fresh water seas. The land back from the shore on either side is abundantly shaded with trees of all varieties native to the locality, most prominent among which are the cedar, from which it derives its name. At a point on this peninsula or promontory, only distant about three miles from the Steamboat Landing in Sandusky, Messrs. ~~Lewis~~ & Dwelle, the owners of the Excursion Steamer R. B. Hayes, have built a dock on the inside or Bay Side, constructed plank walks over to the lake beach, erected and furnished large bathing houses, dancing platforms and halls, seats for spectators, and stands for music, and most of the necessary attachments to a seashore, pic-nic and bathing resort. Although new, it has gained popularity with unprecedented rapidity, and is daily thronged with parties made up of the best people of Sandusky and surrounding cities. It being so easy of access, landing on Bay Side, visitors never need fear sea sickness, no matter how hard the winds may blow.

[The next day, the newspaper printed a correction stating that Mr. Lewis, (Dwelle's usual partner), was not a partner in the operation of the actual pleasure-grounds, itself.
(Therefore, all of the other facts were considered to be 100% accurate; although, specifically, the *“east arm of Sandusky Bay”*, was called, simply, “East End” Cove.)]
The only (apparent) reasoning for Dwelle never 'naming' his 'resort', is because, obviously, “Cedar Point” (the “peninsula”) actually needed no further nomenclature, to easily attract patrons to it (and its long beach).
[However, after Dwelle's lease expired, his new partners, (in 1888) chose the name *' Cedar Point Pleasure Resort '* for the greatly expanded enterprise; but, even after that new “official” name, the general public, (and, even most news reporters), continued to reference this 'Resort' as, simply, *“Cedar Point”*.]

Sandusky Daily Register
May 23, 1887

CEDAR POINT was the objective point of a number of picnicing and sailing parties last Saturday and the pleasure seekers found the mosquitoes alert, vigorous and blood-thirsty.

[Because the specific site of “Dwelle's pleasure grounds” hadn't even opened for the '1887' season (until June 12th), presumably those early *“pleasure seekers”* were instead utilizing the non-commercial sections of *“Cedar Point”* (the “peninsula”), such as its public “Carrying Grounds” area near “Ned's Cove” and “Fisherman's Cove”; or the lighthouse area on the far northwesterly end of its “Cape Sandy”.]

Just a few more samples of news items about “Dwelle's pleasure grounds” :

Norwalk Daily Reflector Jul 18 1887

SANDUSKY, July 12.—

Mrs. Dwelle gave her annual entertainment to the ladies' Congregational society, at Cedar Point, via Steamer Hayes. Mrs. M. B. Peeke read an original story, and delighted her audience. The rest of the afternoon was passed in bathing, visiting and discussing the faith cure lectures being held in Sandusky. After the usual elegant refreshments served at these parties, the ladies wached their husbands and friends play base ball. There were some phenomenal players, among whom were Messrs. Will Marshall, H. E. Huntington and Rev. Peeke; most of those that succeeded in dodging the toad and saving its innocent life, fell nto the muskrat holes. The decisions of the game are still a dark mystery.

The men were ostensibly merely “initiating” the new baseball field, there. The very first organizational game, there, was on the “24th”:

Sandusky Daily Register Jul 22, 1887

EVERYBODY attend the first game of ball at Cedar Point on next Sunday, July 24th. jy22d2t

Sandusky-Daily-Register Jul 23, 1887

Notice.

The owners of sail and all other boats are hereby notified that from next Sunday on, and on all the following Sundays, when Base Ball games are played, the passengers must be landed at Dwelle's dock on Cedar Point and an admission of 25 cents will be collected of every person. Any one not complying with these rules will be debarred from landing their boat at Cedar Point thereafter.

THE COMMITTEE.

“Dwelle's dock on Cedar Point”, according to the (baseball?) committee. (But, if Dwelle's pleasure grounds had any assigned name, for those past 5 years, then surely that dock would have been referenced otherwise?)

Sandusky Daily Register Jul 29, 1887

Base Ball at Cedar Point.

The base ball grounds at Cedar Point are being placed in first class condition, a second scow load of clay having been taken over yesterday. The diamond will be leveled and rolled and good playing will be made possible. Next Sunday the Sanduskys will face the strong Cleveland Malleables, who defeated them twice at the opening of the season, and good sport is assured.

At the end of the '1887' operating-season, the owners of the land beneath Dwelle's Pleasure Grounds decided that they could monetarily benefit even further, by including themselves in a direct partnership with Dwelle (etc.) :

Sandusky Daily Register Oct 20 1887

The Cedar Point Improvement.

For some time past there has been a scheme on foot to improve Cedar Point for a summer resort. The scheme is at last formulated and those interested are A. J. Stoll, Jacob Kuebeler, B. F. Dwelle and Charles Baetz, and perhaps several others. The gentlemen intend improving the Point, by clearing away the trees and underbrush, and filling up the stagnant pools. They will make the place a fine resort and will run it on the same plan as Presque Isle, near Toledo.

A fine hotel will be erected and the company will buy the *Hayes* to make regular trips. A fine base ball diamond will also be one of the possibilities.

Such a resort as this will add greatly to Sandusky as an excursion point in summer, and the company will leave nothing undone to make Cedar Point a fine pleasure ground.

And, on October 21st : “*we inadvertently left out the name of Mr. Louis Adolph as one of the company.*"

[Subsequent '1887' news-reports identify this new company precisely as the **“Cedar Point Improvement Company”**.
(K. Miller's 2019 “Chronology” also *“left out the name”* of that Company and Mr. Adolph; etc.)]

An additional company was formed during that same month :

Sandusky Daily Register
October 31, 1887

THE Cedar Point Steamboat Company, of Sandusky, with a capital of $10,000, was incorporated Saturday.

Another partnership which was formed at approximately that same time, (but not yet 'incorporated'), was the ' Cedar Point Pleasure Resort Company '.

Sandusky Daily Register
November 7, 1887

Mr. Chas. Baetz has sold his bottling works to Mr. Frank Schroeter, who assumes the management of the business to-day. Mr. Baetz having been elected manager of the Cedar Point Pleasure Resort Company, desires to give his undivided attention to the Company's affairs, and hence the sale above noted. Mr. Schroeter is

The result of those several new ('1887') partnerships, was

' Cedar Point Pleasure Resort '

(which opened for its “first season” with that name, in '**1888**').

Perhaps modern-day experts in 19th-Century business-law, (and maritime-law), can explain why the expansion of a single 'Resort' enterprise, required the creation of three separate “Companies”.

{ For the next chapter of **“CEDAR POINT : TRUTH”,** see
' CEDAR POINT PLEASURE RESORT (1888, etc.) '
freely available at **archive.org**
Also see the ***“Cedar Point Lies and Liars”*** **series,**
(including a critique of “CP historian” K. Miller's assertions about Dwelle, etc.). }